

# News Release

**USDA Forest Service**

**National Forests in Mississippi**

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**For Immediate Release**

**October 19, 2015**

## **New District Ranger on the Delta National Forest**

Valencia Morris, a natural resources management professional for the past 12 years, has been selected as the District Ranger for the Delta National Forest, effective October 19. Most recently, she served as the District Recreation Program Manager on the Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. She was in that position with the U. S. Forest Service since 2011.



Morris enjoys working with the community and partners to accomplish Forest Service goals and looks forward to working with the public in natural resources management. “My passion for connecting the public to our public lands stems from my own appreciation for natural resources and the environment,” she said.

Prior to working for the Forest Service, Morris worked at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as a natural resources specialist, focusing on recreation and natural resources management on the Black Warrior, Tombigbee, and Alabama Rivers in Ala. and Lake Sidney Lanier and West Point Lake in Ga.

“We’re delighted to have Valencia join the leadership team in Mississippi,” said Gretta Boley, forest supervisor. Her background and experience working with the community and partners will be a great asset as we carry out our work of managing the public’s lands. I look forward to working with Valencia.”

Morris, a native of Lake Charles, La., received a B.S. degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Natural Resources Management from Tuskegee University and a M.B.A. in Environmental Management from Ashford University in Iowa.

Morris’ appreciation for natural resources was developed later in life, and one of her primary goals has been to connect youth and communities to these public lands. She is passionate about taking advantage of this opportunity to continue her public service in this new capacity and to continue to create a balanced approach in how natural resources are managed for the benefit of the land and the people.

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